Alberta Labour Force Profiles

Youth
2011

Alberta

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Among the provinces, Alberta had the third highest proportion of youth in its working age population at 16.9%, after Manitoba's 17.3% and Saskatchewan's 17.1%.
- The Alberta youth population grew by 13.8% between 2001 and 2011.

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta youth had the second lowest unemployment rate at 10.7% in the country, behind Saskatchewan's youth unemployment rate of 10.4%.
- Alberta youth had the highest participation rate in Canada at 70.2%.
- Alberta's youth employment rate of 62.7% was the highest among the provinces.

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector in Alberta comprised 77.9% of all youth employment.
- In 2011, Alberta youth accounted for 37.7% of those employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry.

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

- 75.2% of employed youth had obtained a high school graduation, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, a university degree, or had some post-secondary education.
- Of employed youth, 76.5% of female and 74.1% of male had attained high school graduation or above.

5. Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

- Youth made up 15.2% of all Alberta employment in 2011.
- 63.6% of youth were employed in full-time positions.
- Almost half of all employed female youth worked part-time.

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage paid to youth was $9.57 less than the average hourly wage paid to all Albertans.
- The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the age of 15 and 24 years.[1]

In Canada, 15.9% of the working age population in 2011 was youth. The proportion of youths in the working age population ranged from 14.2% to 17.3% of the total working age population in the ten provinces. (Figure 1) Alberta had the third highest proportion of youth in the working age population, at 16.9%, behind Manitoba's 17.3% and Saskatchewan's 17.1%. Alberta's percentage of youth in the working age population exceeded the national percentage by 1.0 percentage point.

Figure 1

Number and Per cent of Youth, Canada and Provinces, 2011

	Working Age Population (15+ years)	Youth (15-24 years)	% Youth
Canada	27,987,300	4,457,900	15.9%
Newfoundland and Labrador	428,800	60,900	14.2%
Prince Edward Island	119,200	19,800	16.6%
Nova Scotia	779,100	119,900	15.4%
New Brunswick	619,400	91,300	14.7%
Quebec	6,575,800	980,900	14.9%
Ontario	10,926,300	1,783,300	16.3%
Manitoba	953,300	164,800	17.3%
Saskatchewan	800,000	136,900	17.1%
Alberta	3,006,600	508,600	16.9%
British Columbia	3,778,800	591,500	15.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Alberta's youth population grew by 13.8%, or 61,700, between 2001 and 2011. (Figure 2) This growth rate was 5.7 percentage points higher than the growth rate for Canada's youth, but was 13.3 percentage points lower than the growth rate of Alberta's working age population over the same period.

Figure 2

Growth of Youth and Working Age Population, 2001 and 2011

	2001	2011	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	24,439,000	27,987,300	3,548,300	14.5%
Youth in Canada	4,123,000	4,457,900	334,900	8.1%
Albertans	2,364,900	3,006,600	641,700	27.1%
Youth in Alberta	446,900	508,600	61,700	13.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

[1] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE. Or visit: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=71-543-GIE&lang=eng

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Alberta's youth made up 16.1% of the labour force and 15.2% of those employed in 2011. (Figure 3)

In 2011, youth accounted for almost a third, or 31.6%, of the unemployed in Alberta. Their unemployment rate was 10.7%, down from 11.6% in 2010, and was 5.2 percentage points higher than the 2011 unemployment rate for all Albertans.

Alberta youth participation and employment rates were lower than those for Albertans by 3.5 and 7.0 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 3

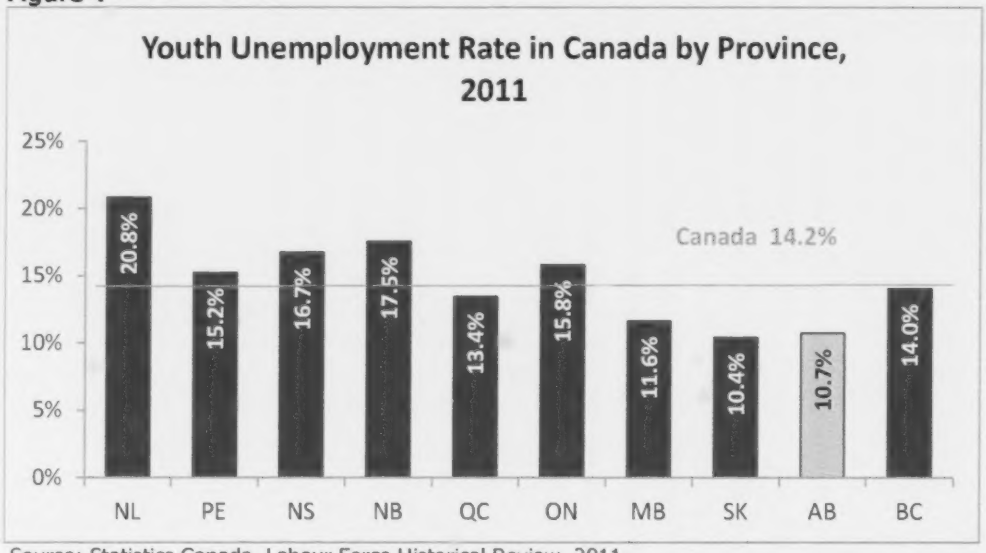
Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics, 2011

	Youth (15-24 years)	Albertans (15+ years)	% of Albertans (15-24 years)
Working Age Population	508,600	3,006,600	16.9%
Labour Force	357,100	2,215,200	16.1%
Employment	318,900	2,094,100	15.2%
Unemployment	38,200	121,000	31.6%
Unemployment Rate	10.7%	5.5%	
Participation Rate	70.2%	73.7%	
Employment Rate	62.7%	69.7%	

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Alberta's youth unemployment rate of 10.7% was the second lowest among the ten provinces, after Saskatchewan's 10.4%, and was 3.5 percentage points lower than the Canadian youth average of 14.2%. (Figure 4)

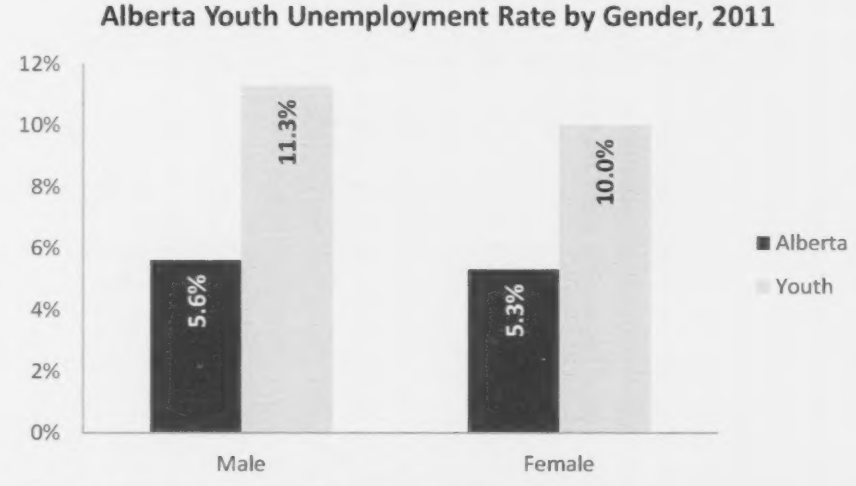
Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Overall, females had lower unemployment rates than males in 2011. (Figure 5) The unemployment rate for male youth was higher than that for female youth by 1.3 percentage points. The unemployment rate for Alberta males was 0.3 percentage points higher than for Alberta females.

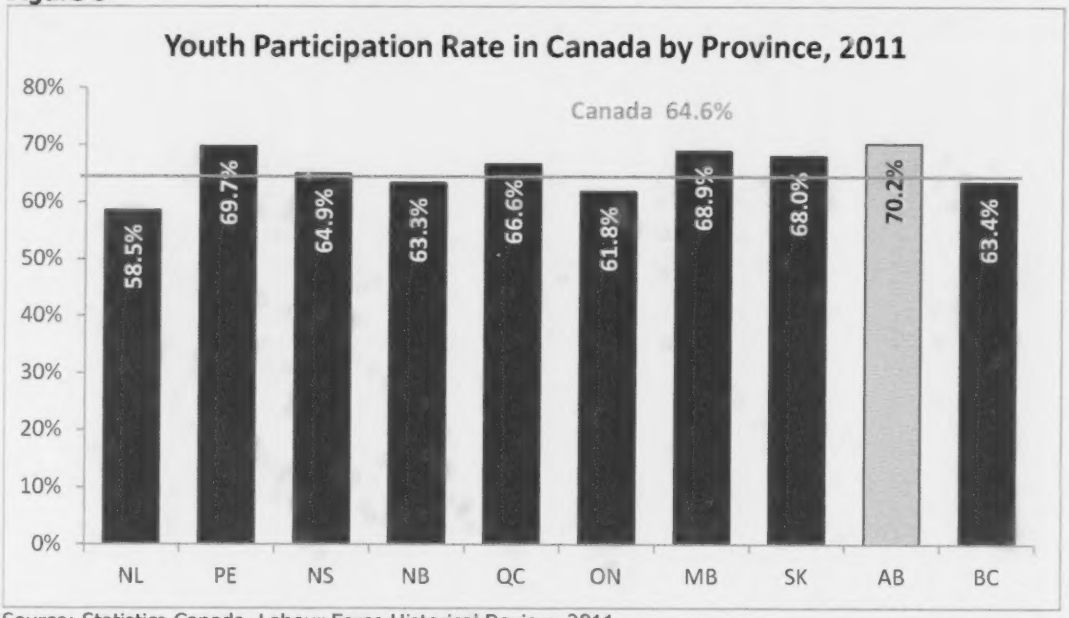
Figure 5



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

In 2011, Alberta's youth participation rate of 70.2% was the highest among the provinces, and was 5.6 percentage points higher than the Canadian youth average of 64.4%. (Figure 6)

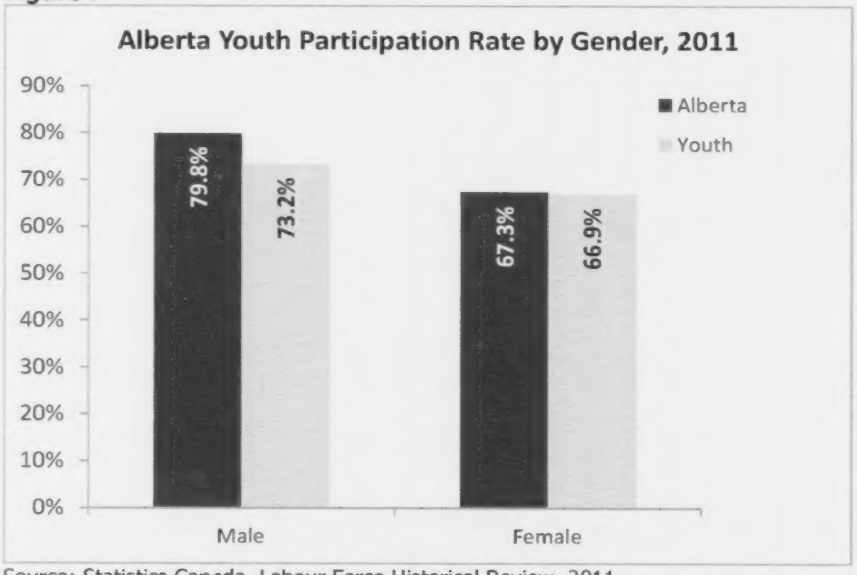
Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

The participation rate for Alberta's female youth was 66.9%, which was 0.4 percentage point lower than the average for Alberta's working age female population and 6.3 percentage points lower than the participation rate for male youth. (Figure 7)

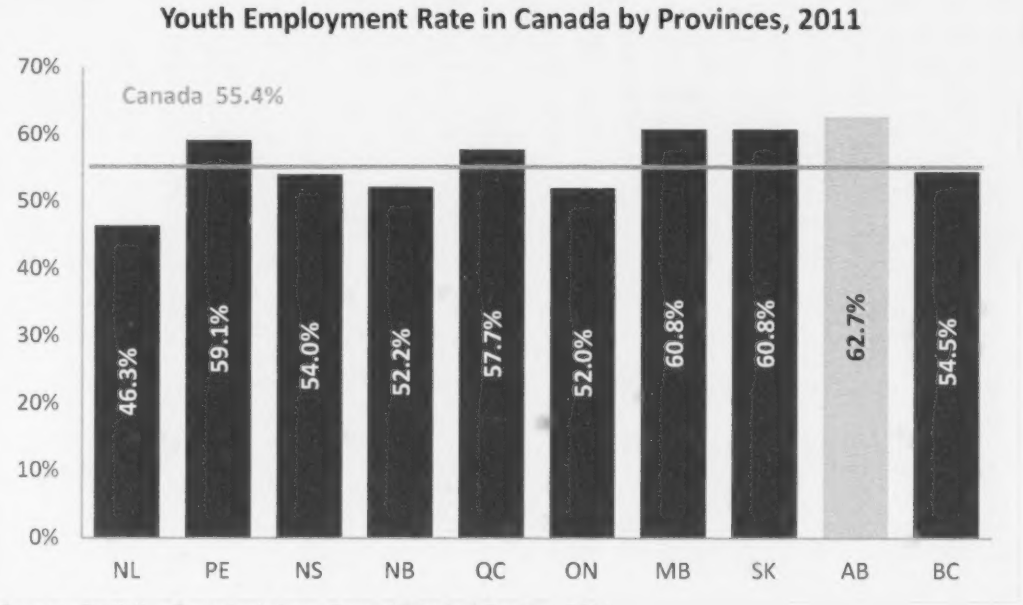
Figure 7



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Alberta's youth employment rate of 62.7% was the highest among the provinces. (Figure 8) This rate was 7.3 percentage points above the average Canadian rate in 2011.

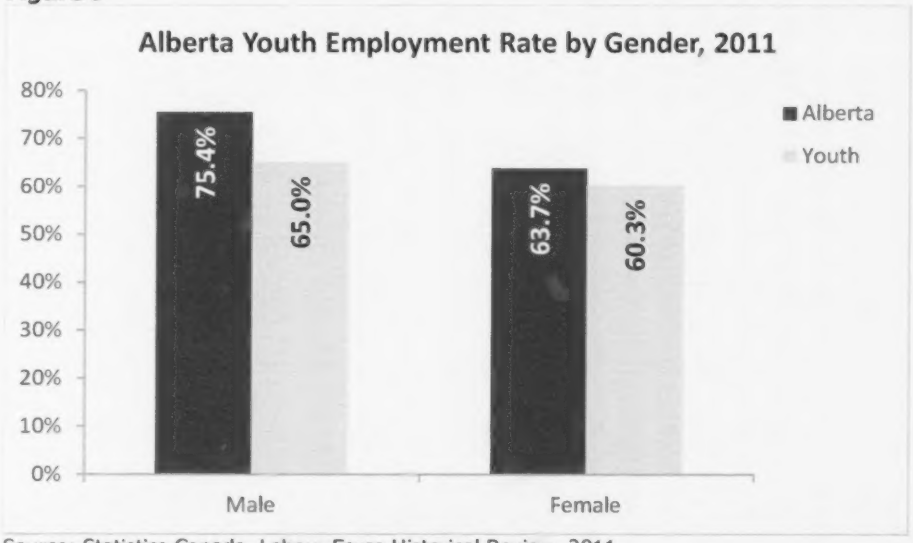
Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

In 2011, the employment rate for male youth in Alberta was 4.7 percentage points higher than the rate for female youth but 10.4 percentage points lower than the rate for Alberta males. (Figure 9)

Figure 9



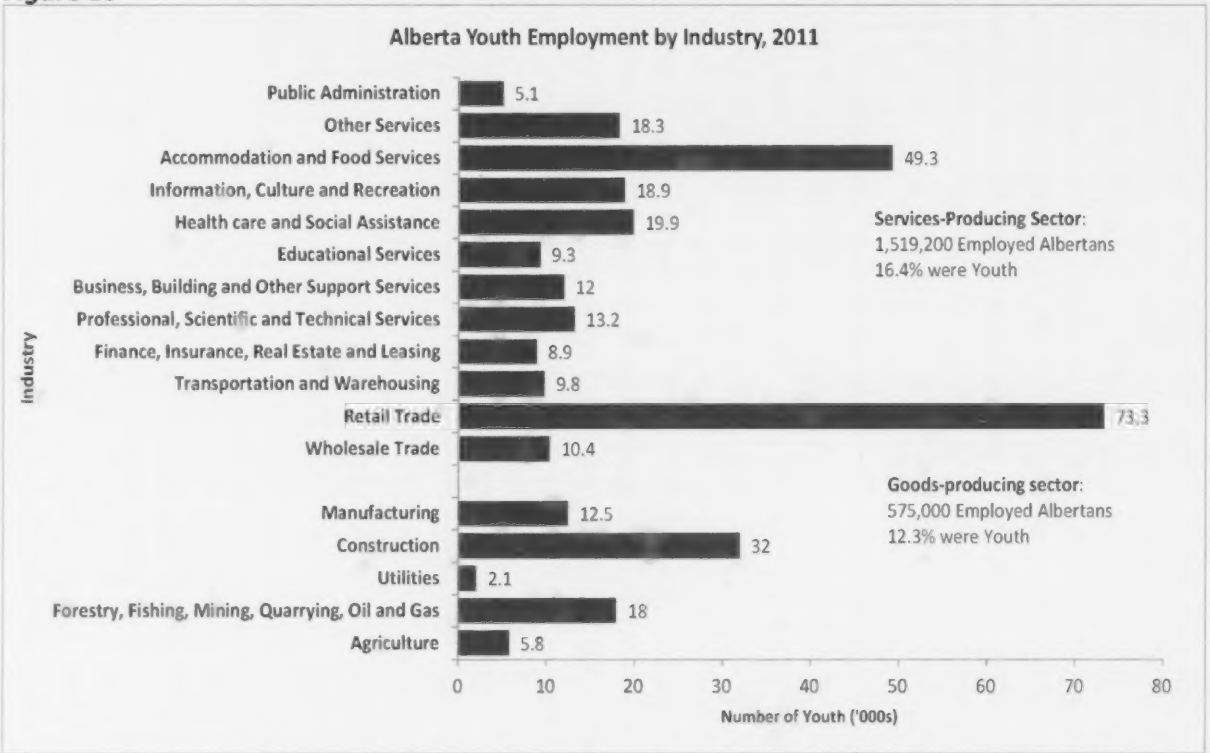
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

In 2011, there were 575,000 Albertans employed in the Goods-Producing Sector and 12.3% were youth. (Figure 10) In the Services-Producing Sector, 1,519,200 Albertans were employed in the sector, of which 16.4% were youth.

Of employed Alberta youth, 77.9% worked in the Services-Producing Sector. The three industries that employed the largest number of youth were Retail Trade, 73,300; Accommodation and Food Services, 49,300; and Construction, 32,000.

Figure 10



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

In 2011, 81.8% of the youth employed in the Alberta Goods-Producing Sector were male. (Figure 11) Of all employed Alberta male youth, 19.4% were employed in the Retail Trade industry, and 16.4% were in the Construction industry.

Female youth comprised 54.6% of all youth employed in the Services-Producing Sector in 2011. Of female youth employed in that sector, just over half worked in two industries: 29.6% were employed in Retail Trade and 20.7% in Accommodation and Food Services.

Figure 11

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2011

Industry	Number Employed		Proportion by Gender	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Goods-Producing Sector	**57,700**	**12,800**	**81.8%**	**18.2%**
Agriculture	4,100	1,800	69.5%	30.5%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	14,700	3,300	81.7%	18.3%
Utilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Construction	27,900	4,100	87.2%	12.8%
Manufacturing	9,700	2,800	77.6%	22.4%
Services-Producing Sector	**112,800**	**135,600**	**45.4%**	**54.6%**
Wholesale trade	7,600	2,900	72.4%	27.6%
Retail trade	33,100	40,200	45.2%	54.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	7,900	1,800	81.4%	18.6%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	3,200	5,600	36.4%	63.6%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6,700	6,500	50.8%	49.2%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	7,600	4,500	62.8%	37.2%
Educational Services	2,800	6,500	30.1%	69.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,800	17,100	14.1%	85.9%
Information, Culture and Recreation	8,500	10,400	45.0%	55.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	21,200	28,100	43.0%	57.0%
Other Services	800	10,300	7.2%	92.8%
Public Administration	3,400	1,700	66.7%	33.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011
N/A – insufficient data

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

In 2011, 24.8% of employed youth had less than high school education compared to 11.5% of employed Albertans, and 35.2% of youth were high school graduates compared to 23.3% of Albertans. (Figure 12)

Figure 12

Alberta Youth Employment by Education Level, 2011

Educational Attainment	Albertans (15+ years)	Youth (15 to 24 years)
Less than high school	11.5%	24.8%
High school graduate	23.3%	35.2%
Some post-secondary	7.4%	16.3%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	34.9%	16.4%
University degree	22.9%	7.3%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Of the employed youth with a university degree, 57.3% were female and 42.7% were male. (Figure 13) For employed youth with high school graduation, 56.4% were males and 43.6% were females.

Figure 13

Youth Employment by Education Level and Gender, 2011

Educational Attainment	Youth (15-24 years)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Less than high school	79,000	55.9%	44.1%
High school graduate	112,200	56.4%	43.6%
Some post-secondary	52,000	51.5%	48.5%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	52,300	50.3%	49.7%
University degree	23400	42.7%	57.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

5. Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

The proportion of youth employed in part-time positions was 36.4%, more than double the proportion for Albertans, at 17.1%. (Figure 14) The proportion of female youth in part-time employment was 45.6%, which was 17.2 percentage points higher than the proportion for male youth.

Figure 14

Full-time and Part-time Employment by Gender, 2011

		Youth (15 to 24 years)		Albertans (15+ years)	
		Employed	% of total	Employed	% of total
Both Genders		318,900	100.0%	2,094,100	100.0%
	Full-Time	202,700	63.6%	1,736,000	82.9%
	Part-Time	116,100	36.4%	358,200	17.1%
Male		170,500	100.0%	1,154,600	100.0%
	Full-Time	122,000	71.6%	1,048,300	90.8%
	Part-Time	48,500	28.4%	106,300	9.2%
Female		148,400	100.0%	939,500	100.0%
	Full-Time	80,700	54.4%	687,700	73.2%
	Part-Time	67,700	45.6%	251,900	26.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011
*Figures are subject to Statistics Canada rounding guidelines

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

Overall, youth earned less per hour than Albertans at each level of education. (Figure 15) The average hourly wage paid to youth at all levels of education was $9.57 less than what Albertans earned in 2011. The difference in the average hourly wage paid increased from $5.33 for those who had high school to $11.26 for those with a university degree.

Figure 15

Average Hourly Wages by Educational Level, 2011

Educational Level	Albertans	Youths
All Education	**$25.47**	**$15.90**
Less than high school	$18.14	$12.66
High school graduate	$21.22	$15.78
Some post-secondary education	$20.72	$15.42
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	$27.36	$19.61
University degree	$32.19	$20.15

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth in 2011. (Figure 16)

Figure 16

Average Hourly Wages by Educational Level, 2011

Educational Level	Youth	Male	Female
All Education	**$15.90**	**$17.23**	**$14.38**
Less than high school	$12.66	$13.54	$11.57
High school graduate	$15.78	$17.11	$14.05
Some post-secondary education	$15.42	$16.84	$13.91
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	$19.61	$22.39	$16.74
University degree	$20.15	$21.46	$19.19

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.